

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents

From: Board Office

Subject: Report on Meeting of the Governor's Education Roundtable

Date: August 30, 2001

Recommended Action:

Receive the report.

Executive Summary:

On Tuesday, August 14, 2001, the Governor's Education Roundtable held its first meeting in Des Moines. Below is a brief summary of this meeting. A list of members is also attached. Interim Executive Director Barak substituted for President Koob who was unable to attend the meeting.

Governor Vilsack provided a brief introduction describing his rationale for establishing the group by executive order and noting his expectations. He emphasized the need for a "seamless Pre-K – 16 education system". He said that while Iowa has committed and concerned educational elements, communication across the various sectors and levels has not been as good as it could and should be. There are needs for greater economies and efficiencies in the current system. It was the Governor's hope that the "Roundtable" would provide some concrete suggestions and recommendations for a greatly improved "seamless system" at all levels. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor stayed for the entire meeting.

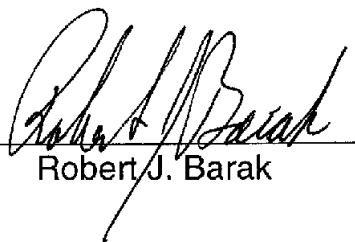
Dane Linn, a staff person from the National Governor's Association, has been engaged to help facilitate the Education Roundtable. Mr. Linn will be working with the Governor's Office to "make the discussion more focused and to serve as a resource". Mr. Linn noted that Iowa was the 23rd state to establish some kind of a "Pre-K – 16 Council".

Tony Carnevale from the Educational Testing Service gave a presentation on "Economics, Demography and the Future of Higher Education Policy" with a special emphasis on Iowa. His presentation, while noting national trends, focused specifically on Iowa. Mr. Carnevale said the state has an aging population (more than national average) and indicated that there is a gap in persons technologically trained - that is persons ready for employment in the "new economy". He raised some concerns about the state's financial future and predicted that enrollments will drop by 2015 (more than the national average). He concluded by saying that we need to do things better and more efficiently.

After lunch, the group discussed some approaches to "seamless education" adopted by several states. California, Missouri, Oregon, Indiana and Florida were discussed. The Florida approach was noted as the most drastic approach. There are those who believe that the Florida approach has serious problems but it is too new to make any judgment on its ultimate success as the new K – 16 Board has only recently been appointed. President Geoffroy gave a presentation on the "Maryland K-16 Partnership" that he was a part of while in Maryland.

Ted Stilwill, Director of the Iowa Department of Education, provided an overview of educational issues in Iowa. He gave his perspective of many of the issues previously noted, which were supportive of the general notion that we need to take some actions to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Iowa's education system.

The next meeting on November 7 will focus on specific issues to be pursued by the group.



Robert J. Barak

Members of the Governor's Education Roundtable

Senator Nancy Boettger
Mr. Barry Cleaveland
Senator Mike Connolly
President Barb Crittenden
Mr. Charles Edwards
Mr. Nolden Gentry
Representative Betty Grundberg
Ms. Anita Hampton
Ms. Christine Hester
Ms. Anne Hoffman
Mrs. Grace Ivey
President Robert Koob
Mr. Michael Mason
President David Maxwell
Mrs. Kathy Showalter
Ms. Beverly Smith
Director Ted Stilwill
Governor Thomas Vilsack
Mr. Ed Wiederstein
Representative Phil Wise
Mrs. Gail Wortmann